

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 AID-20 DPW-01 EUR-25 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR 1, APRIL 23, 1973

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL DANANG BEING REPEATED

QUOTE

DANANG 437

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJ: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, X PLUS 85, APRIL 23, 1973

1. MILITARY SITUATION:

THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS OVER THE WEEKEND WAS RELATIVELY LOW, WITH A TOTAL OF SEVEN GROUND ATTACKS, 51 ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF' S) AND THREE MISCELLANEOUS INCIDENTS; SIX OF THE GROUND ATTACKS AND 37 OF THE ABF' S WERE IN THE 1 ST DIVISION AO NORTHWEST OF HUE. TOTAL CASUALTIES FOR THE THREE- DAY PERIOD WERE AS FOLLOWS: FRIENDLY 13 KIA, 123 WIA AND TWO MIA; ENEMY 50 KIA. AS A SECOND PHASE OF THE CHIEU HOI PROGRAM REPORTED EARLIER IN QUANG NGAI, 35 MORE HOI CHANH RALLIED IN THAT PROVINCE ON APRIL20, BRINGING THE TOTAL OF THE SPECIAL " LAST CHANCE" CAMPAIGN TO 115. I CORPS G-2 REPORTED FAIRLY HEAVY COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN THE HIGHLANDS; THE NUMBER OF DETECTED MOVERS WAS NEARLY TRIPPLE THE WEEK BEFORE. ARVN INTELLI-
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GENCE ALSO REPORTED ON APRIL 22 THAT AERIAL OBSERVATION HAD DETECTED COMMUNIST RECONSTRUCTION ON A LUOI AIRFIELD IN WESTERN THUA THEIN AND KHAN DUC AIRFIELD IN WESTERN QUANG TIN PROVINCE.

2. ICCS:

THE REGION I ICCS TEAM INVESTIGATING THE APRIL 7 HELICOPTER INCIDENT APPROACHED THE PRG LIAISON OFFICER, COLONEL PHUONG, AT QUANG TRI ON APRIL 21 SEEKING PERMISSION TO RE-VISIT THE CRASH SITE WITH THE SURVIVORS. COLONEL PHUONG, PLEADING LACK OF "INSTRUCTIONS", SAID HE WOULD NOTIFY THEM. HE DID REITERATE THE PRG'S DESIRE THAT THE ICCS REMOVE HELICOPTER #115 FROM THE AREA.

3. GVN ACTIVITIES:

A. POLOFF QUANG NAM REPORTS THAT SINCE UNDER THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT IT IS NO LONGER PERMITTED TO HOLD "POLITICAL PRISONERS", SOME 50 PERSONS ARE BEING DETAINED IN HOI AN UNDER A NEW CATEGORY: JAILED FOR REASONS OF "CIVIL DISTURBANCE" (PHA ROI TRI AN). ACCORDING TO NATIONAL POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH, ALL THESE DETAINEES ARE VCI AND NO SO-CALLED "OPPOSITION" POLITICAL FIGURES ARE BEING HELD LOCALLY.

B. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH POLOFF QUANG NGAI, DAO QUANG BINH, WHO

BECAME THE NEW DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF FOR ADMINISTRATION A MONTH AGO, COMMENTED THAT HE HAS FOCUSED MUCH OF HIS ATTENTION ON STRENGTHENING PSDF ORGANIZATION. HE IS PERSONALLY DIRECTING PSDF IN QUANG NGAI CITY AND FREQUENTLY INSPECTING OTHER LOCAL UNITS. WHILE THE NEW EMPHASIS IS AIMED IN PART AT IMPROVING VILLAGE AND HAMLET SECURITY, ACCORDING TO HIM THE PRIMARY REASON IS TO GIVE THE

GVN A MORE DIRECT LINK WITH THE RURAL POPULACE IN PREPARATION FOR THE PROPOSED FREE ELECTIONS. THE GOVERNMENT'S POLITICAL INFLUENCE OVER SUCH GROUPS AS CIVIL SERVANTS AND THE MILITARY IS ALREADY STRONG, BUT THE GVN WOTOTOB# ORGANIZATION CAPABLE OF MOBILIZING INFLUENCE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. IN THIS REGARD, BINH ADDED THAT THE GVN CANNOT MERELY RELY ON THE HIT-OR-MISS EFFORTS OF THE DEMOCRACY PARTY AND PEOPLE'S FRONT FOR PEACE.

4. COMMUNIST ACTIVITY:

ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM A RELIABLE GVN AGENT AS MADE AVAILABLE TO POLOFF QUANG NAM, NLF VILLAGE COMMITTEES ARE TAXING

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FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1973 EACH FAMILY IN FOUR VILLAGES OF HOA VANG DISTRICT SURROUNDING DANANG CITY. THE RATE FOR POOR FAMILIES IS 10,000\$ VN; FOR MIDDLE INCOME FAMILIES 20,000\$ VN; AND FOR RICH FAMILIES 40,080\$ VN.

5. ATTITUDES OF INFLUENTIAL LEADERS:

THICH THIEN MINH, AN QUANG BUDDHIST LEADER AND ACTING CHAIRMAN OF

THE UNITED BUDDHIST ASSEMBLY (VIEN HOA DAO), VISITED HOI AN WITH A DELEGATION FROM SAIGON RECENTLY. ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION OF NATIONAL POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH AS RELATED TO POLOFF QUANG NAM, MINH BELIEVES THE PARIS CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT HAS BENEFITED ONLY THE UNITED STATES AND NORTH VIETNAM. THE FORMER HAS BEEN ABLE TO WITHDRAW GRACEFULLY; THE LATTER IS NO LONGER SUBJECT TO BOMBING. THE WAR FOR SOUTH VIETNAM, HOWEVER, GOES ON. BINH ALSO BELIEVES PRESIDENT THIEU FORMED THE DEMOCRACY PARTY TO FORCE THE BUDDHISTS TO FORM A POLITICALLY ORGANIZED " THIRD FORCE". THIEU IS SAID BY MINH TO BELIEVE THAT THE " FORCE" WILL INCLUDE THE VNQDD, DAI VIET AND SOME OTHER PARTIES, TOGETHER WITH THE NEUTRALISTS, ALL UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SENATE CHAIRMAN NGUYEN VAN HUYEN.

BROWN
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